

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

What is claimed:

1-20 (Canceled).

21(New). A piston ring, having a base member with an outer annular surface extending between an upper side surface and a lower side surface and formed with a recess across only a portion of the annular surface and a land region across the remaining portion of the annular surface, a first vapor deposition coating portion filling said recess and providing an outer coating contact surface, said land region projecting radially outwardly of said coating contact surface, and including a second vapor deposition coating portion disposed on said land region in radially outwardly spaced relation to said first vapor deposition coating portion, such that subsequent removal of said second vapor deposition coating and subsequent removal of the portion of said land region projecting radially beyond said outer coating contact surface yields an essentially sharp-edged contact surface edge formed between said contact surface and at least one of said side surfaces.

22(New). A piston ring, according to claim 21 wherein said land region includes a masking cover formed separately from said base member and from said second vapor deposition coating portion material.

23(New). A piston ring, according to claim 21 wherein said recess includes a partially conical as well as an adjacent cylindrically shaped area undercutting said land region.

24(New). A piston ring, according to claim 21 wherein said recess comprises a groove spaced from said upper and lower side surfaces.

25(New). A piston ring, according to claim 22 wherein said masking cover is formed as a single piece out of the base material.

26(New). A piston ring, according to claim 21 wherein said masking cover comprises bands or strips of metal or plastic formed separately from the base material and the vapor deposition coating material.

- 27(New). A piston ring, according to claim 21 wherein said vapor deposition coating comprises a PVD or CVD coating in thicknesses between 5  $\mu\text{m}$  and 70  $\mu\text{m}$ .
- 28(New). A piston ring, according to claim 21 wherein at least on of said upper and lower sides of the ring is supplied with a galvanized layer.
- 29(New). A piston ring, according to claim 28 wherein said galvanized layer is chrome based.
- 30(New). A piston ring, according to claim 21 wherein said base material comprises steel or cast iron.
- 31(New). A piston ring, according to claim 21 wherein said vapor deposition coating comprises Cr or N-based coatings.
- 32(New). A piston ring, according to claim 21 including undercut defining an oil reservoir between said land portion and said first vapor deposition coating portion.
- 33(New). A piston ring, according to claim 21 wherein said sharp-edged contact surface edge is provided between said contact surface and said lower side surface.
- 34(New). A method of forming a vapor deposition coating on a radially outer surface of a piston ring, including forming a recess across a portion of the outer surface and a land portion adjacent the recess and projecting radially outward of the recess to an outward surface of the land portion, applying a vapor deposition coating to the outer surface provided with a surface profile, including supplying a base member with a contact surface profile with a cover outside of the contact surface profile; applying the vapor deposition coating on the contact surface and subsequently removing the cover, so that following the removal of the cover an essentially sharp-edged contact surface edge is formed between the contact surface and at least one of the side surfaces of the base member.
- 35(New). A method, according to claim 34 wherein the vapor deposition coating is formed by a PVD or CVD process.
- 36(New). A method, according to claim 34 wherein the base member in the area of at least one of the side surfaces is supplied with a galvanized layer.
- 37(New). A method, according to claim 34 wherein the vapor deposition coating is created based on Cr and N, in a layer thickness between 5 and 70  $\mu\text{m}$ .
- 38(New). A method, according to claim 34 including forming, under cuts for the creation of a oil-retaining reservoirs.